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DR. V. K. JOHN :—" It is with regard to the enforcement policy of the Government, that we are asking supplementary questions, Sir."

JANAB ABDUL LATIFF FAROOKHI :—" Is any special training given to the candidates in this College, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" Yes, Sir, they are given some special training, which include relevant portions of the Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, etc., and their main training is in matters relating to the Madras Prohibition Act, how to conduct enquiries, charge cases and conduct prosecutions, etc. The detailed courses of study prescribed for the various grades of officers are given in the printed answer which is already laid on the table of the House."

Koya labour in the Agency tracts.

* 9 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether, in the Agency tracts, Koya labour is engaged by the Forests, the Public Works and the Revenue departments;

(*b*) whether the rates of wages to be paid for labour employed by these departments have been fixed and if so, what the rates are;

(*c*) whether Koya labour is directly recruited or through an intermediary;

(*d*) whether there are works in the Agency tracts which are executed by contractors;

(*e*) whether payment of wages at particular rates is one of the conditions mentioned in the contracts; and

(*f*) whether the Government have considered at any time the desirability of revising rates of wages, amenities to be provided, etc., to Koya labour employed on Government works?

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The rates of wages paid for labour employed by different Government Departments in the Agency areas have been fixed with reference to the nature of the work and the tract in which the workmen are to be engaged. I may however inform the hon. Member in this connexion that the question of extending the Minimum Wages Act to Agency tracts is being examined with a view to fix suitable rates of minimum wages, statutorily for agriculture, forestry and other employments covered by the Act.

" (*c*) Koya Labour is recruited directly by the departments concerned in certain areas and through intermediaries such as Patels in certain other areas.

" (*d*) Yes, Sir.

" (*e*) No, Sir. But provision is made in the estimates for the different works for wages at certain fixed rates. These rates vary as the demand for labour varies.

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"(f) Rate of wages are being revised from time to time by the Public Works Department and the Forest Department with reference to the cost of living index. Revenue Department is adopting Public Works Department Schedule of rates in employing labour on road and building works. No other measures have been taken in regard to provision of amenities."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, till the Government come to a decision regarding the enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, will they advise their officers to see that when contractors entertain hands under them, the particular rates of wages which Government pay to their own employees are paid to them by them also? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" That point is also generally taken into consideration, when the Government entrust the work to the contractors, but the question of putting it as a condition in the contract, is a thing which will have to be considered, Sir."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know, Sir, what steps the Government actually take to see that the contractor pays the minimum living wage, even according to the Government standard of the cost of living index, to the labour employed by them? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" It is generally very difficult, Sir, to enforce such a condition as that, but if we get complaints from individual labourers, we shall enquire into the matter and take action to redress their grievances."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know, Sir, if the Government are aware that under the Payment of Wages Act, the wages to be paid by the contractor, should be paid in the presence of a gazetted officer or a responsible officer of the Government? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" It is quite possible that there may not be such a system in vogue in some places, but I have had no specific complaints brought to my notice in this regard by anybody."

Introduction of rationing in the upland areas of some surplus districts.

* 10 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state whether the Government have issued instructions for the introduction of rationing in the upland areas of some surplus districts?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Yes."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that the people residing in the area have protested against the introduction of rationing there? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Originally it was proposed to introduce rationing in all surplus districts and in all statutorily rationed areas and also in the deficit